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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples**

(covering its work during 1998)

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Chapter XII

Guam

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* A/53/150.

** The present document contains chapter XII of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/53/23 (Part I). Other chapters of the report will be issued under the symbol A/53/23 (Parts II-VII and IX). The complete report will be issued subsequently as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/53/23).

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A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1484th meeting, on 6 February 1998, the Special Committee decided, *inter alia*, to take up the question of Guam as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings (see (A/AC.109/L.1871).

2. The Special Committee considered the question of Guam as a separate item at its 1492nd, 1493rd, 1496th and 1499th meetings, on 6, 7 and 13 July and 11 August 1998.

3. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (see A/AC.109/2113).

4. At the 1493rd meeting, on 7 July 1998, with the consent of the Special Committee, Mr. Ronald Rivera, on behalf of the Guam Commission on Decolonization, made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1493).

5. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the 1492nd meeting, Mr. Rufo Lujan, on behalf of the Organization of People for Indigenous Rights, made a statement (see A/AC.109/SR.1493).

6. At the 1499th meeting, on 11 August 1998, the Acting Chairman drew the attention of the members to the draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/L.1883.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1883 and, in the course of his statement, informed the Special Committee that Fiji had become an additional co-sponsor to the draft resolution.

8. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1883 without a vote (A/AC.109/2129).

B. Recommendation of the Special Committee

9. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2129), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1499th meeting, on 11 August 1998, appears below in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly:

Question of Guam

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of Guam,

Having examined the chapter of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to the question of Guam,[1]

Recalling that, in a referendum held in 1987, the registered and eligible voters of Guam endorsed a draft Guam Commonwealth Act that would establish a new framework for relations between the Territory and the administering Power, providing for a greater measure of internal self-government for Guam and recognition of the right of the Chamorro people of Guam to self-determination for the Territory,

Recalling its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and all resolutions and decisions of the United Nations relating to Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular, General Assembly resolution 52/77 of 10 December 1997,

Recalling also the requests by the elected representatives and non-governmental organizations of the Territory that Guam not be removed from the list of the Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned, pending the self-determination of the Chamorro people and taking into account their legitimate rights and interests,

Aware of the continued negotiations between the administering Power and the territorial Government on the draft Guam Commonwealth Act and on the future status of the Territory, with particular emphasis on the question of the evolution of the relationship between the United States of America and Guam,

Cognizant that the administering Power continues to implement its programme of transferring surplus federal land to the Government of Guam,

Noting that the people of the Territory have called for reform in the programme of the administering Power with respect to the thorough, unconditional and expeditious transfer of land property to the people of Guam,

Conscious that immigration into Guam has resulted in the indigenous Chamorros becoming a minority in their homeland,

Aware of the potential for diversifying and developing the economy of Guam through commercial fishing and agriculture and other viable activities,

Taking note of the proposed closing and realigning of four United States Navy installations on Guam and the request for the establishment of a transition period to develop some of the closed facilities as commercial enterprises,

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory, and noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific regional seminar for sending a visiting mission to Guam,[2]

Noting with interest the statements made and the information on the political and economic situation in Guam provided by the representatives of the Territory to the Pacific regional seminar, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 16 to 18 June 1998,

1. *Calls upon* the administering Power to cooperate with Guam's Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination in order to facilitate Guam's decolonization and to keep the Secretary-General informed of the progress to that end;

2. *Also calls upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as endorsed by the people of Guam, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government of Guam to continue the negotiations on the matter, and requests the administering Power to inform the Secretary-General of progress to that end;

3. *Requests* the administering Power to continue to assist the elected territorial Government in achieving its political, economic and social goals;

4. *Also requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the people of the Territory;

5. *Further requests* the administering Power to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam, and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the immigration issue;

6. *Requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes specifically intended to promote the sustainable development of economic activities and enterprises by the Chamorro people of Guam;

7. *Also requests* the administering Power to continue to support appropriate measures by the territorial Government aimed at promoting growth in commercial fishing and agricultural and other viable activities;

8. *Requests* the Special Committee to continue the examination of the question of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Guam and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

Notes

[1] The present chapter

[2] See A/AC.109/2058, para. 33 (20)